

## Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 INR-07 EUR-12

/053 W

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P R 161633Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8647

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, LI, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE GOL INFRINGEMENT ON VANPLY CONCESSION

REFS: 74 MONROVIA 6484; 74 MONROVIA 6418

1. COMMATT BRIEFED BY VANPLY MANAGER HAANSCHOTEN ON GOL LETTER OF NOVEMBER 20, 1975, WHICH DIRECTED VANPLY TO GIVE UP 14,600 ACRES OF ITS TIMER CONCESSION FOR USE BY GOL. SUBJECT LAND PARCEL TO BECOME PART OF LARGER CONCESSION TO BE USED AS PALM OIL PLANTATION. PALM OIL CONCESSION BASED ON LIBERIA/IVORY COAST AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND APPARENTLY INVOLVES SODEPALM INTERESTS FROM IVORY COAST.

2. VANPLY HEADQUARTERS (SKELLY OIL) PREPARED OFFICIAL RESPONSE IN LETTER OF DECEMBER 30, 1975, TO THEN AGMIN PHILLIPS (NOW FINANCE MINISTER) WHICH CITED VANPLY'S AGREEMENT WITH GOL, STATED THAT VANPLY HAD CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE GOL REQUEST AND CONCLUDED THAT: QTE IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT SUBJECT 14,600 ACRES SHOULD REMAIN DEDICATED TO THOSE PURPOSES RECITED IN THE GRANTING CLAUSE OF THE AGREEMENT (SEE ARTICLE II, SECTION 1/1) UNQTE.

3. IN RESPONSE, PHILLIPS REQUESTED HAANSCHOTEN BRING LOCAL  
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LEGAL COUNSEL TO MEETING JANUARY 12. AT THAT MEETING PHILLIPS

INDICATED THAT PLAM OIL PROJECT PART OF LARGER AGREEMENT THAT WOULD PARTLY BE FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN (?) DEVELOPMENT BANK WITH EEC, AND SAID HE SHOCKED BY VANPLY REFUSAL TO COOPERATE. HE SAID IT SHOWED VANPLY LACKED INTEREST IN WELFARE OF SINOE COUNTY (WHERE CONCESSION LOCATED) AND SMACKED OF THE OLD COLONIAL APPROACH (E.I., EXPLOITATION INSTEAD OF DEVELOPMENT). PHILLIPS SAID THAT GOL WAS BEING LENIENT IN GIVING VANPLY THREE YEARS SALVAGE RIGHTS FOR TREES IN AREA WHICH WOULD ALLOW VANPLY RECOVER ANY COSTS AND EXPENSES ALREADY INCURRED, BUT THAT GOL COULD DO AS OTHER GOVERNMENTS DO AND JUST TAKE THE AREA WITHOUT COMPENSATION. HE WARNED THAT THIS LENIENCY ON PART OF GOL SHOULD NOT BE MISTAKEN FOR SOFTNESS, AND GOL PREPARED TAKE WHATEVER ACTION NECESSARY TO ACQUIRE LAND.

4. HAANSCHOTEN'S ONLY RESPONSE WAS THAT DECISION MADE AT CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, AND THAT HE WOULD PROCEED DIRECTLY TO THE UNITED STATES TO PRESENT THE MINISTER'S VIEWS.

5. PRIO HAANSCHOTEN'S DEPARTURE US, COMMATT ADVISED HIM THAT VANPLY (AND/OR SKELLY) SHOULD ASK DEPARTMENT AND POSSIBLY OPIC LEGAL OPINION AS TO WHETHER THREATENED GOL ACTION CONSTITUTES EXPROPRIATION AS COVERED BY OPIC INSURANCE ON PROJECT. VANPLY OFFICIALS INFORMED CHARGE YESTERDAY THAT COMPANY PLANNING APPROACH DEPARTMENT AND OPIC FOR ADVICE IN NEAR FUTURE.

6. EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE FULL DETAILS (SUCH AS COPY OR ORIGINAL GOL LETTER) OF GOL PROPOSAL, AND THEREFORE UNABLE BRIEF ON WHETHER OR NOT IT OFFERING PROPER COMPENSATION. HOWEVER, COMPENSATION NOT MAJOR ISSUE FOR VANPLY, WHICH IS CONCERNED THIS ONLY FIRST IN UNENDING LINE OF DEMANDS. (THIS NOT UNLIKE PROBLEM REPORTED REFTELS.) EMBASSY POUCHING COPIES OF VANPLY TO AGMIN LETTER AND HAANSCHOTEN'S MEMO ON MEETING WITH PHILLIPS FOR DEPARTMENT INFO. VANPLY/SKELLY WILL FULLY BRIEF DEPARTMENT ON DETAILS OF PROBLEM.

7. DEPARTMENT PASS OPIC AS APPROPRIATE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOREIGN INVESTMENT, FRUIT, LAND GRANTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE GOL INFRINGEMENT ON VANPLY CONCESSION  
**TAGS:** EINV, LI, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006